

15th May, 1948

B.S.E. 1948/3.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS.

C o n t e n t s

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## PART I: EMPLOYMENT, BUILDING AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT: New South Wales:

Employment in non-rural industries in New South Wales reached the record level of 956,000 at the end of March, 1948. Employment rose between July, 1945 and December, 1946 from 788,000 to 898,000 and during 1947 by a further 51,000 to 949,000. Demobilisation proceeded during this period and most of the discharged servicemen and women available for employment were absorbed into jobs.

Following the seasonal decrease from December to January, 1948, there was a gain of 9,000 in February and March which seems to be due mainly to school-leavers entering employment, the arrival of migrants and seasonal activities in the food industries (picking and canning). Non-rural employment is now 39% greater than in July, 1939 and 10% greater than at the end of the war, but the demand for labour has increased even more, and in many undertakings shortages are serious, particularly in basic industries like coal, iron and steel, cement, timber and rubber. Unemployment has fallen to a minimum level and insufficient additional labour is becoming available from natural increase, migration, persons completing training and transfers from other occupations to meet expanding requirements.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Excluding employers and workers on own account.)

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT							Men from N.S.W. in Armed Forces
Month	Rural	Domestics (a)	All other Wage Earners (excl. Rural & Domestics)				
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total		
T h o u s a n d s							
1939 - July	81(b)	52	530	168	698	6	
1945 - July	43(b)	19	541	247	788	224	
1946 - July	63(b)	20	625	243	868	50	
1947 - January			653	249	902	31	
February			655	249	904	30	
March	64(b)		662	251	913	29	
July			677	253	930	23	
1948 - January			690	257	947	19	
February			694	259	953	18	
March			696	260	956	18	

(a) Employed in private households.

(b) Ascertained annually in March

The employment of women has increased less than male employment during the past twelve months. The present level of 260,000 is near the war-time peak of 1943. Part of the increased employment of women in industry since 1939 is due to the transfer of domestics, and allowing for this female employment has increased proportionally less than male employment, notwithstanding marked improvement in wages and working conditions for women during the period. Far too few women are offering to fill the jobs available.

Juvenile Labour:

Because of the low birthrate of the early 1930's less juvenile labour is at present becoming available. Preliminary statistics supplied by the Education Department show that pupils leaving State schools in 1946 and 1947 numbered 32,152 and 30,424, respectively, compared with 34,510 in 1939. Roughly 10% of the boy and 20% of the girl leavers in 1947 transferred to other branches of study (private schools and colleges, university, etc.). Of the remaining 14,284 boys about 25% intended to enter trades, 22% unskilled jobs and 16% commercial jobs (clerks and shop assistants). There has been a significant fall in the number of boys going into rural jobs from 2,965 in 1933 to 1,813 in 1939 and 1,030 in 1947 and into unskilled jobs from 4,358 in 1939 to 3,093 in 1947. Industrial expansion has offered more opportunities for apprentices and the number of boys entering trades has risen from 1,496 in 1933 and 2,306 in 1939 to 3,479 in 1947. A progressively larger number of girls is entering employment on leaving school with a corresponding decline in "home duties" (including occupation unstated) from 9,770 in 1933 to 4,617 in 1947. Many more girls are taking jobs as clerks and shop assistants and in the professions and public service while fewer are going into factories or paid domestic service.



## INTENDED OCCUPATIONS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS, N.S.W. STATE SCHOOLS.

Occupation Groups	Boys				Girls			
	1933	1939	1946	1947 <sup>(a)</sup>	1933	1939	1946	1947 <sup>(a)</sup>
Trades (a)	1,496	2,306	3,529	3,479	797	1,065	1,266	1,457
Factory Hands	492	1,297	947	914	526	1,038	891	808
Pastoral & Agricultural	2,965	1,813	1,045	1,030	...	...	...	...
Clerks & Shop Assistants	2,392	2,994	1,988	2,309	1,429	1,996	3,302	3,613
Professions & Public Service	557	699	848	852	128	152	740	640
Unskilled (b)	3,419	4,358	3,274	3,093	455	669	525	483
Others (c)	3,554	2,181	3,077	2,607	9,770	7,894	5,591	4,617
Total in Occupations	14,875	15,648	14,708	14,284	13,105	12,809	12,315	11,628
Transfers to other schools	1,641	1,947	1,701	1,514	2,501	4,106	3,428	2,993
Total	16,516	17,595	16,409	15,798	15,606	16,915	15,743	14,626

(a) For girls: dressmakers, milliners & tailoresses and miscellaneous. (b) For girls: domestic service only.

(c) Includes occupations unknown and (for girls) home duties. (d) Preliminary.

## EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIES:

The increase in employment of 2,800 in March was spread over most of the industrial groups, and was partly seasonal and partly due to the entry of school-leavers and ex-trainees into the various occupations. The increase of 600 in the factories reflects larger seasonal employment in food factories; employment in this group rose from 34,800 in November, 1947 to 36,100 in March, 1948, which is less than the increase from 34,900 to 36,600 in the same period of 1946-47. Employment in building and construction increased from 53,900 in March, 1947 to 60,000 in March, 1948 which compares with the pre-war figure of 62,400. In transport employment the increase in recent months was mostly in road transport and in communications. Increasing trading activity is indicated by the growth in wholesale, wool and produce trade employment from 37,200 in July, 1939 to 48,200 in March, 1947 and 52,000 in March, 1948. Although Government employment (Commonwealth, State and local) has risen in absolute figures from 155,900 in 1939 and 200,100 in July, 1945 to 217,000 in March, 1948, its proportion to total employment has not changed greatly; it was 22.3% in 1939, 25.4% in 1945 and 22.7% in March, 1948. The increase in Government employment is largely due to greater demands on transport, communications and public utilities and the extension of social and reconstruction services.

## EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES NEW SOUTH WALES (a)

(Thousands - Males and Females combined)

Month	Factor-ies	Building & Construct-ion	Mining & Quarry-ing	Transport & Communi-cation	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Professl & Personal Services	Other	TOTAL Wages & Salary Earners (a)
1939-July	218.0	62.4	25.3	88.9	79.9	59.3	107.6	56.5	697.9
1945-July	302.3	34.9	24.9	100.5	67.7	56.7	115.4	85.5	787.9
1946-July	322.8	46.0	25.9	110.2	81.3	72.3	130.3	79.6	868.4
1947-Jan.	327.9	51.9	26.5	112.1	86.9	76.2	136.8	83.6	901.9
Feb.	331.3	53.9	26.5	112.2	85.3	77.0	137.3	83.1	903.6
Mar.	336.6	53.9	26.5	112.5	85.7	77.8	139.0	81.5	913.3
July	341.8	53.0	26.9	115.5	87.5	79.0	140.0	80.9	929.6
1948-Jan.	344.7	58.5	27.5	117.8	91.9	81.9	143.3	81.5	947.1
Feb.	346.9	59.1	27.9	118.8	91.2	81.9	144.5	82.8	953.1
Mar.	347.5	60.0	28.0	119.3	91.5	82.7	143.9	83.0	955.9

(a) Excluding rural workers and female domestics in private households.

The principal movements in employment of women since January, 1948 have been of a seasonal character - an increase in food factories in February and March causing a rise in female factory employment from 86,700 to 88,400, a decline from the December employment peak of 44,300 in retail trade to 42,500 in March, and a small increase in the commercial group apparently due to girls who left school at the end of the year taking jobs. Industries acutely short of female labour, such as clothing and textile mills, health and other social services have not shown any gain in recent months.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES: NEW SOUTH WALES  
(t h o u s a n d s)

Month	Factories	Transport & Communi- cation	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Professional & Personal Services	Other	Total Female Wage & Salary Earners (a)
1939-July	59.3	5.3	32.5	10.2	47.7	13.0	168.0
1945-July	85.7	14.5	37.5	21.1	69.6	18.3	246.7
1946-July	83.1	12.9	39.2	21.1	73.3	13.4	243.0
1947-Jan.	84.3	12.4	41.6	21.7	75.8	12.8	248.6
Feb.	85.7	12.7	40.3	22.0	75.9	12.4	249.0
Mar.	87.3	12.7	40.5	22.1	76.7	12.3	251.6
July	87.0	12.8	40.9	22.3	77.1	12.8	252.9
1948-Jan.	86.7	13.4	43.0	23.0	78.6	12.7	257.4
Feb.	87.6	13.5	42.6	23.3	79.3	12.9	259.2
Mar.	88.4	13.5	42.5	23.6	79.0	13.1	260.1

(a) Excluding rural workers and female domestics in private households.

COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE - NEW SOUTH WALES:

The shortage of labour is becoming more acute; there is a marked increase in the excess of vacancies registered with Commonwealth Employment Service offices over the number of persons seeking placement (which includes unemployed and persons wishing to change jobs). Vacancies for men exceeded the number unplaced until February, 1947; in March, 1948 they were nearly three times the number of men seeking placement. There were far too few school-leavers in 1948 to meet demand for juvenile labour. A large number of vacancies exist for skilled and unskilled male workers in factories, building and construction, and transport industries, and for female labour in the clothing and textile industries and services (restaurants, domestics, etc.).

REGISTRATIONS WITH COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, N.S.W.

(T h o u s a n d s)

End of Month	JUVENILES				ADULTS				Unemployment Beneficiaries	
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Males	Females
	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies		
1946-July	0.6	1.8	0.8	5.3	10.4	8.7	2.6	10.0	2.4	0.1
1947-January	1.0	1.8	0.8	5.1	12.9	9.7	1.5	7.8	3.2	0.1
February	1.0	2.0	0.7	4.8	12.4	12.8	1.4	8.4	3.6	0.1
March	0.9	2.0	0.7	4.9	9.3	14.1	1.5	7.5	1.7	0.1
1948-January	1.1	5.0	0.7	4.6	6.6	16.0	1.4	8.8	0.5	-
February	1.0	5.1	0.7	4.5	6.1	16.6	1.6	8.9	0.3	-
March	0.7	5.0	0.6	4.6	6.0	17.2	1.6	8.7	0.2	-



NEW BUILDING - New South Wales:

The number of new dwellings commenced (4,772) and completed (3,640) in New South Wales in the March quarter of 1948 was less than in the December quarter, although well above the level of the March quarter of 1947. At the end of March, 1948, 19,206 dwellings in houses and flats remained uncompleted; many of these, however, are occupied.

NEW HOUSES AND FLATS, NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Includes owner-built houses, but excludes new houses on farms and military huts converted).

Quarter ended -	Authorised (a)	Commenced	Completed	Uncompleted at end of Quarter
1946-September	7,530	4,705	2,719	11,289
December	6,493	4,208	3,437	12,060
1947-March	6,660	4,454	2,774	13,740
June	7,644	5,016	3,414	15,342
September	7,972	5,204	3,620	16,926
December	6,973	4,928	3,780	18,074
1948-March	6,137	4,772	3,640	19,206

(a) Permits issued for private houses plus contracts let for Government houses.

BUILDING MATERIALS - New South Wales:

The output of bricks and terra-cotta tiles in March quarter was considerably greater in 1948 than in 1947; that of bricks was less than 75% of the 1938-39 average, but tile production about equalled the pre-war level. Fibro sheet production exceeded that level but was less than in March quarter of 1946 or 1947. Local timber output is approximately twice as great as before the war but imports of timber, which were 200 million super feet in 1938-39, were only 84 million super feet in 1947.

PRODUCTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Period	Bricks millions	Terra-Cotta Tiles thousands	Timber Local Sawm mill. super ft.	Asbestos Cement Sheets 000 sq. yds.
Year 1938-39	379.1	20,129	179.4	5,291
Year 1945-46	144.6	12,230	252.1	7,806
Year 1946-47	249.5	19,523	300.9	9,657
1946 March Quarter	39.9	3,790	38.9 (a)	2,226
1947 March Quarter	55.2	4,708	40.9 (a)	2,107
1948 March Quarter	69.9	4,939	48.6 (a)	1,906

(a) January and February only.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES:

During the March quarter of 1948, 140,000 man-working days were lost in coal mines through industrial disputes; that is much above the average of earlier periods. A number of disputes in various other industries was settled in March; that in the brewery industry continued into May.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Thousand Man-days lost)

Annual Averages	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total	Monthly Averages	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total
1914-18	520	603	1,123	1947-Jan.-Mar.	46	158	204
1919-21	307	1,392	1,699	Apr.-Jun.	38	20	58
1937-39	474	170	644	Jul.-Sept.	25	25	50
1940-44	483	328	811	Oct.-Dec.	28	50	78
1945	630	1,249	1,879	1948-January	49	6	55
1946	299	617	916	February	39	31	70
1947	392	735(a)	1,127(a)	March	52	49	101

(a) revised.

COAL IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION:

Consumption of black coal in Australia in 1947 was approximately 14.5 million tons, and the Joint Coal Board estimates that at least another 1 million ton would have been used if supplies had been available. The Davidson Report (1946) estimated requirements would reach 15.2 million tons in 1948 and 15.7 million tons in 1950, exclusive of exports of coal in bunkers (550,000 tons in 1938-39) and as cargo. Australian requirements of New South Wales coal were estimated at 12 million tons a year, in the Davidson report; an output achieved in only one year - 1942. Production in 1947 was 11.7 million tons, and in the 12 weeks ended March 27, 1948 it was 2.33 million tons, compared with 2.49 million tons in the corresponding period of 1947.

The State Government plans to open and operate three new mines to produce 3.5 million tons a year for the supply of Government and semi-Government requirements.

COAL PRODUCTION - AUSTRALIA  
(Million tons)

Year	Black Coal			Brown Coal Victoria
	N.S.W.	Other States	Total	
1939	11.2	2.3	13.5	3.6
1946	11.2	2.7	13.9	5.7
1947	11.7	3.1	14.8	6.0

To reduce dependence on New South Wales coal, new fields are being developed at Leigh Creek, South Australia (output in 1947: 179,000 tons) and at Blair Athol, Queensland (expected eventually to yield 3.5 million tons a year). Brown coal production in Victoria expanded from 3.6 million tons in 1939 to 6 million tons in 1947. Black coal production outside New South Wales was 2.3 million tons or 17% of the total in 1939 and 3.1 million tons or 21% of the total in 1947, with Queensland and Western Australia (1.9 million tons and 700,000 tons, respectively, in 1947) the main producers.

PRODUCTION OF COAL, IRON & STEEL, New South Wales.  
(Thousand tons)

Period	C o a l			Pig Iron		Ingot Steel
	Underground	Open-Cut	Total	N.S.W.	Whyalla(a)	
Yearly Average						
1936-1939(b)	10,054	-	10,054	932.7	-	1055.5
1940-1944(b)	11,284	120(c)	11,404	1304.0	133.7	1555.5
1945	9,653	523	10,176	960.1	-	1099.3
1946	10,430	756	11,186	855.7	146.1	1185.8
1947	10,726	959	11,685	964.3	207.1	1218.0
Twelve weeks ended						
29th March, 1947	2,296	191	2,487	205.8	50.1	263.8
27th March, 1948	2,058	268	2,326	231.5	51.9	270.6

(a) Production in Whyalla S.A. most of which used in N.S.W. steelworks; included in averages as from 1941.

(b) Average for years ended 30th June for iron & steel production.

(c) Open-cut included in averages as from 1943.

The transport, power and steel industries are the major consumers of coal. Requirements of New South Wales steel works alone are estimated at 2.5 million tons a year, but in 1947 they received only 2.1 million tons. Steel output amounted to 1.22 million tons in 1947, and was 15% above the pre-war average but well below the war-time peak of 1.70 million tons. During the first quarter of 1948 production of pig iron improved considerably and of steel slightly over the corresponding period of 1947.



GAS AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION SYDNEY:

Consumption of gas and electricity in Sydney (seasonally adjusted index) rose from a pre-war average of 100 to 161 in 1946-47 and reached the record level of 180 in March, 1948. An industrial dispute interrupted gas supplies in January, 1948.

As from May 3, restrictions were applied to the use of electricity for radiators, advertising, and shop lighting at specified hours in all parts of New South Wales served by the State power grid. These restrictions and the transfer to Sydney of power from the hydro-electric stations at Burrinjuck and Wyangala are designed to enable the winter peak demand in the metropolis to be met.

INDEX OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION, SYDNEY

Seasonally Adjusted; Monthly Average 1937-39=100			
Yearly Average	Index	Month	Index
1938-39	104	1947-November	174
1944-45	143	December	177
1945-46	147	1948-January	166
1946-47	161	February	173
		March	180

NEL. SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS:

Passenger and goods traffic on the State railways has been maintained at record levels. In the nine months ended March, passenger journeys numbered 196.6 millions in 1947-48; 2.3 millions more than in 1946-47, and 39% more than in 1938-39, and the volume of goods carried was 13 million tons compared with 12.5 million tons in 1946-47 and 10.8 million tons in 1938-39.

Most of the increase (£4.25 million) in gross earnings - due to record traffic and higher fares and freight rates from 13th August, 1947 - has been absorbed by an increase (£3.64 million) in working expenses. The gross working surplus for the nine months was about £5 million this year, compared with £4.36 million in 1946-47, in the whole of which year the gross working surplus failed by £1.56 million to cover capital charges.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Year	Nine Months ended March.				Month of March		
	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Gross Earnings
	millions	mill.tons	£mill.	£mill.	millions	mill.tons	£mill.
1939	141.2	10.84	14.22	10.48	14.7	1.46	1.63
1946	196.7	11.62	23.29	18.12	22.4	1.41	2.71
1947	194.3	12.46	22.95	18.59	23.2	1.33	2.64
1948	196.6	12.99	27.20	22.23	23.4	1.48	3.27

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES (Sydney & Newcastle):

For tram and bus services the increase in gross earnings has about matched the increase in expenses since fares were raised on 1st July, 1947 and has not enabled losses on the working of these services to be overtaken. In February and March, 1948 gross earnings were exceeded by working expenses and the surplus on working account was reduced from £128,000 in January to £119,000 in March; in July-March, 1946-47 there was a working deficiency of £12,000. For the whole year 1946-47 the deficiency was £122,000 on working account and £601,000 after debiting depreciation and debt charges.

There were more passenger journeys in March, 1948 (44.7 millions) than in any month since fares were raised. For the nine months ended March, 1948 these numbered 371,700 or about 7% less than in 1946-47 but nearly a third more than in 1938-39.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

Year	Nine Months ended March				Month of March		
	Passenger Journeys(a)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net Earnings(b)	Passenger Journeys(a)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses
	millions	£000	£000	£000	millions	£000	£000
1939	280.1	3,269	2,769	500	32.9	382	311
1946	408.7	4,452	4,304	148	43.1	532	508
1947	398.6	4,561	4,573	-12	46.3	530	538
1948	371.7	5,909	5,790	119	44.7	716	725

(a) Estimated. (b) Available to meet depreciation and debt charges.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS - N.S.W.:Cars:

Registrations of new cars has been maintained at a high level during 1947-48. An increasing number of new cars is supplied by the United Kingdom. Prior to the war 20-40% of new cars registered in this State were British; in 1947 the proportion was 51% and in the March quarter of 1948 it was 53%. At the end of March, 1948 208,900 cars were on the New South Wales register which is still below the pre-war figure of 216,600.

Lorries & Utilities:

New commercial vehicles registered decreased from an average of 891 a month in the December quarter of 1947 to 704 in February and 745 in March, 1948 or to about the pre-war average. At the end of March, 1948 127,400 commercial vehicles were registered in New South Wales; 62% more than in August, 1939. Part of this increase was made possible by the conversion of military vehicles to civilian use. Because of the expansion of road transport during and since the war and replacement needs, new vehicles are in great demand. Most commercial vehicles are imported from America (88% of new registrations in 1947 and the March quarter of 1948).

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Period	NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED			CIVILIAN VEHICLES ON REGISTER (a)		
	Cars	Lorries (b)	Total	Cars	Lorries (b)	Total
1937-39 (Monthly Average)	1,748	735	2,483	216.6 (c)	78.7(c)	295.3(c)
1945 - August	17	201	218	185.7	36.1	271.8
1946 - August	312	521	833	191.7	102.2	293.9
1947 - March	770	468	1,238	197.1	112.0	309.1
September	1,320	912	2,232	202.1	120.1	322.2
October	1,451	873	2,324	203.7	121.5	325.2
November	1,298	876	2,174	204.7	122.9	327.6
December	1,248	925	2,173	205.9	124.5	330.4
1948 - January	871	540	1,411	206.7	125.5	332.2
February	1,265	704	1,969	207.7	126.4	334.1
March	1,395	745	2,140	208.9	127.4	336.3

(a) At end of month

(c) At 31st August, 1939

(b) Including utilities, vans and road tractors.

PORT OF SYDNEY:

The weight of inward cargo handled in the Port of Sydney in the nine months ended March, 1948, nearly 4 million tons, was well above the level of 1946-47 and 1938-39, but less than during the war years. Oversea imports in the nine months rose from 1.52 million tons in 1946-47 to 1.80 million tons in 1947-48. Coal shipments, the largest item in imports from other New South Wales ports, were 1.12 million tons and 1.16 million tons, respectively.

Outward cargo in the nine months decreased from 2 million tons to 1.62 million tons largely owing to smaller shipments of wheat and wool. Wool exported in 1945-47 included large quantities bought and paid for, but not shipped, during the war, but in the first half of 1947-48 it was mostly 1946-47 clip wool. Heavy shipments of wool and wheat have been made in recent months and overseas exports from Sydney during March quarter were 520,000 tons in 1948 as against 382,000 tons in 1947.

SHIPPING CARGO IN THE PORT OF SYDNEY - Thousand tons.

Period	OVERSEA	INTERSTATE	INTRA STATE	TOTAL
Inward Cargo				
Year 1938-39	2,045	1,187	1,896	5,128
1945-46	2,661	1,157	1,580	5,398
1946-47	2,086	1,079	1,710	4,875
July-March 1945-46	2,056	894	1,143	4,093
1946-47	1,521	749	1,314	3,584
1947-48	1,796	805	1,383	3,984
Outward Cargo				
Year 1938-39	1,429	793	340	2,567
1945-46	2,033	414	152	2,599
1946-47	1,965	482	158	2,605
July-March 1945-46	1,519	309	114	1,942
1946-47	1,533	348	126	2,007
1947-48	1,143	370	111	1,624



## PART II - FINANCE AND TRADE

NINE TRADING BANKS: New South Wales:

Trading bank deposits in New South Wales rose to the new record of \$262 million in March, 1948, having increased by \$12 million in the last three months. The increase reflects a high level of business activity, the expansion in advances in 1947 and seasonal payments to primary producers for wool and wheat. For the first time in two years advances decreased (from \$140 million to \$137 million) in March, 1948. This may indicate repayment of seasonal loans, and tends to obscure the effects of lending restrictions imposed at the end of last year.

NINE TRADING BANKS, DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES IN N.S.W.  
(Weekly Averages - £ millions)

Quarter ended March	Deposits at Customers' credit	Advances to Customers	Month	Deposits at Customers' credit		Advances to Customers outstanding	
				1946-47	1947-48	1946-47	1947-48
1939	116	118	October	241	246	101	131
1944	198	85	November	240	248	104	136
1945	223	81	December	245	250	104	139
1946	235	85	January	247	252	105	140
1947	247	106	February	247	257	106	140
1948	256	139	March	247	262	108	137

A u s t r a l i a:

Customers' deposits with Australian trading banks continue to grow rapidly. During the war and the early post-war period deposits about doubled (\$322 millions in March, 1939 and \$636 millions in March, 1946), mainly because of the effect of war and defence expenditure. Since then deposits have increased further by \$70 million to \$706 million due to the re-expansion of private business (financed by bank advances and accumulated funds) and to increasing export returns for primary products. Bank advances rose from \$209 million in March, 1946 to \$337 million in January, 1948 but then decreased to \$334 million in March, 1948. The recent movement is largely seasonal and it is not apparent as to how far restrictions on bank lendings introduced in December, 1947, are affecting advances as a whole.

An analysis of the composition of deposits and advances published by one of the trading banks shows that the greater part of the increase in deposits in that bank between 1945 and 1947 accrued to primary producers while the bulk of advances was made to the manufacturing, commercial, building and service industries.

More than half of the increase in customers' deposits in the March quarter was required to be paid into Special Account, and the balance has been used to increase holdings of Treasury bills and cash. Cash items (including current accounts with Commonwealth Bank) in March, 1948 (\$49 million) were higher than they have been for some years.

NINE TRADING BANKS - BUSINESS WITHIN AUSTRALIA  
(Weekly Averages - £ millions)

Month	Deposits at credit of Customers	Advances to Customers outstanding	Gov't & Municipal Securities	Special A/c. with C'wealth Bank	Treas-ury Bills	Cash Items	Ratios to Deposits	
							Advances	Special Account
							per cent	per cent
1939 March	322	285	22	-	25	34	89	-
1946 March	636	209	121	249	74	42	33	39
1947 March	656	268	83	276	38	39	41	42
July	633	303	78	253	11	36	48	40
Aug.	629	308	75	240	11	41	49	38
Sep.	639	316	76	236	14	46	49	37
Oct.	652	325	74	239	16	46	50	37
Nov.	659	333	66	249	14	42	50	38
Dec.	669	336	62	259	11	44	50	39
1948 Jan.	673	337	60	264	17	45	50	39
Feb.	687	337	59	269	21	43	49	39
March	706	334	59	275	26	49	47	39

INTER-BANK CLEARING & DEBITS TO CUSTOMERS' ACCOUNTS, SYDNEY:

The turnover of the Sydney clearing house increased greatly during and since the war. Inter-bank clearings rose from a monthly average in March quarter of £115 million in 1945 to £153 million in 1947 and £182 million in 1948. This is due mainly to the expansion in business activity, to record proceeds for primary produce, and to the rise in prices. Cheque turnovers are now more than twice as high as in 1939.

INTER-BANK CHEQUE CLEARINGS - SYDNEY.  
(Monthly Averages)

Period	(Monthly Averages)				Percentage Increase on previous year		
	1945	1946	1947	1948			
	£ millions				1946	1947	1948
March Quarter	115	130	153	182	13%	18%	19%
June Quarter	129	149	180		16%	21%	
September Quarter	123	162	173		32%	7%	
December Quarter	128	168	196		31%	17%	

Debits to customers' accounts in all New South Wales trading banks show similar trends. Weekly averages in March quarter have risen from £45.4 million in 1946 to £56.7 million in 1947 and £66.8 million in 1948.

DEBITS TO CUSTOMERS' ACCOUNTS

All Banks, N.S.W. excluding Government Accounts.  
(£ millions - Weekly Averages)

Year	March Qr.	June Qr.	September Qr.	December Qr.
1945	(a)	(a)	(a)	44.7
1946	45.4	51.3	55.0	58.2
1947	56.7	62.3	63.5	70.4
1948	66.8			

(a) Not Available.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS - New South Wales:

During the first quarter of 1948 amounts deposited to Commonwealth Savings Bank accounts in New South Wales exceeded withdrawals by £1.4 million and depositors' balances were £232.7 million at its close. Savings seem to be accumulating again after a decrease from £237.3 million in July, 1946 to £227.5 million in June, 1947 (before adding interest), and then a period of little change. New deposits in the March quarter, 1948 were about £1.1 million higher and withdrawals £2 million less than in the March quarter of 1947.

NEW SOUTH WALES SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS  
(£ millions)

Month	Deposits lodged during month	Withdrawals made during month	Net increase (+) or decrease (-) in savings during month	N.S.W. Total Deposits	AUSTRALIA All Savings Banks Total Deposits
1939 August	(a)	(a)	(a)	87.0	244.9
1945 August	13.6	9.8	+ 3.8	204.8	584.7
1946 July	16.6	15.5	+ 1.1	237.3	666.6
August	14.5	14.8	- 0.3	237.0	666.9
December	12.5	14.2	- 1.7	231.3	653.8
1947 January	12.4	12.8	- 0.4	230.9	652.8
February	11.7	12.1	- 0.4	230.5	652.4
March	12.7	13.6	- 0.9	229.6	650.8
December	13.3	13.8	- 0.5	231.3	661.9
1948 January	12.2	12.1	+ 0.1	231.4	662.9
February	12.4	11.6	+ 0.8	232.2	665.1
March	13.3	12.8	+ 0.5	232.7	667.4

(a) Not available.



REAL ESTATE - New South Wales:

The number of real estate transactions, as shown by transfer documents, for the March quarter of 1948 (13,068) was slightly less than in the March quarter of 1947 (19,195) but the value of transactions was higher (£14.35 million compared with £13.70 million). The value of fixed mortgages has increased in recent months and totalled £8.51 million (about 59% of recorded sales) in the March quarter, 1948 compared with £5.89 million (43% of recorded sales) in 1947, implying greater recourse to outside finance for real estate transactions than during the war and early post-war period.

The average rate of interest on private first mortgages (urban securities) has remained practically unchanged at 4.4% during the past nine months. Under National Security regulations the maximum rate of interest for first mortgages of under £5,000 is 4½%. For greater amounts or higher rates Treasury permission must be obtained.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Yearly Average	Sales		Mortgages	Month	Sales		Mortgages
	Transactions	Consid- eration	Consid- eration		Transactions	Consid- eration	Consid- eration
	No.	£mill.	£mill.		No.	£mill.	£mill.
1936-1938	44,375	36.11	23.76	1947-Jan.	6,359	4.58	1.86
1939-1941	47,786	32.15	18.19	Feb.	6,275	4.73	2.03
1942-1944	32,982	19.54	6.88	Mar.	6,561	4.39	2.00
1945	51,012	28.29	9.75	1948-Jan.	5,653	4.89	3.67
1946	81,196	50.68	21.18	Feb.	6,103	4.82	2.40
1947	80,592	57.22	25.99	Mar.	6,312	4.64	2.44

COMMONWEALTH BANK - CENTRAL BANKING BUSINESS:

High export returns brought gold and overseas funds in the Central Bank to the record level of £245 million at the end of April, 1948. The total is about £19 million more than a year ago, and in the interval a gift of £25 million was paid to the United Kingdom Government.

The note issue increased to £197 million at the end of April, after tending to decline before Easter, and was £5 million less than in April, 1947. Latterly trading banks were required to redeposit to Special Account much of the increase in customers' deposits, but their free deposits with the Bank, which are part of their cash reserves, increased also, and averaged £13 million more in April, 1948 than a year earlier. Reduction in Government securities from £441 million in February to £400 million at the end of April appears to be due to retirement of Treasury bills from revenue funds.

COMMONWEALTH BANK - CENTRAL BANKING BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTE ISSUE.  
 (Weekly Averages - £ millions)

	Notes on Issue held by Trading Banks				Other Liabi- lities (a)	Gold & Balances abroad	Gov't & other securities
	Public	Banks	Special A/c.	Other Dep'ts.			
1939 Year	35	14	-	21	(b)	(b)	(b)
1946 Year	180	17	255	25	136	204	405
1947 Year	180	21	262	25	123	193	407
1947 April	182	20	282	21	116	226	388
1948 February	171	22	271	28	153	185	441
March	173	22	276	34	147	206	424
April	174	23	282	34	150	236	404
Week ended (April 28)	174	23	288	31	149	245	400

(a) Excluding Capital & Reserve Funds.

(b) Comparable 1939 figures not available.

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

Share prices fell considerably in Sydney (and overseas) stock markets in February and early March. A rally which began in Sydney shortly before Easter continued during the early part of April and by the middle of the month about a third of the fall from the peak level of February, 5 had been regained. Turnovers were small and prices steady towards the end of April. The index for all classes of shares, excepting public utilities and insurance companies, was higher in April than in March. For 34 active shares the index was 272.3 in April compared with 268.4 in March and 283.7 in January; it was 247.2 in December, 1946, before restrictions on share dealings were lifted.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. Banks). Par value = 100.

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

Month	Manufact'g & Dis- tributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939-Aug.	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942-Mar.	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1945-Aug.	242.3	207.3	170.3	146.8	264.6	195.6	209.9
1946-Dec.	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1947-Jan.	307.8	289.0	202.9	165.5	343.8	243.8	259.6
Oct.	341.2	311.6	188.1	173.9	399.1	258.8	270.9
Nov.	347.3	318.2	190.7	179.8	399.2	264.4	276.4
Dec.	355.4	318.8	189.8	183.4	404.4	268.7	280.4
1948-Jan.	361.4	315.5	184.7	191.7	407.8	271.5	283.7
Feb.	358.1	311.2	180.5	189.0	404.8	268.6	280.3
Mar.	345.3	305.6	179.7	173.7	401.6	260.5	268.4
Apr.	350.9	308.6	178.0	176.1	399.7	261.8	272.3

NOTE: Regulations restricting trading and price movements in company shares imposed in February, 1942, with subsequent amendments, were rescinded in January, 1947.

RETAIL TRADE (Large Sydney Stores):

Retail sales (large Sydney stores) remain at a very high level but are increasing less rapidly; for the three months ended February, 1948 the increase over the corresponding period of 1946-47 was 19% as against increases of 25% from 1944-45 to 1945-46 and 22% from 1945-46 to 1946-47. The Commonwealth Bank's index of retail sales (seasonally adjusted, three months moving averages, base: 1938-39 = 100), rose to 200 in July, 1947 and 234 in October, 1947, but was back to 187 in January and 207 in February, 1948. On the average, stock values in 1947 were about a third higher than in 1946 and were 24% greater in January and February, 1948 than in the corresponding months of 1947. Much of the rise in stock and sales values is due to higher prices (e.g., the rise of 100% in the retail clothing price index from September, 1939 to March, 1948).

RETAIL TRADE - LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) on same period of previous year.

Three Months Moving Average ended Month shown	VALUE OF SALES			Month	VALUE OF STOCKS		
	1946	1947	1948		1946	1947	1948
	%	%	%		%	%	%
January	+27	+22	+17	January	-6	+39	+24
February	+25	+22	+19	February	-10	+39	+24
October	+35	+27		October	+21	+25	
November	+24	+24		November	+29	+28	
December	+25	+17		December	+38	+26	
Average Increase for year	+32	+19		Average Increase for year	+4	+33	

Comparing January and February, 1947 and 1948, main increases in sales value were in dress materials, hosiery, boots and shoes, furniture, hardware, electrical and travel goods.



## LARGE SYDNEY STORES

Percentage increase February, 1948 compared with February, 1947.

	Sales %	Stock %		Sales %	Stock %
Piece Goods	+ 15	+ 35	Furniture	+ 34	+ 49
Women's Wear	- 2	+ 5	Hardware	+ 35	+ 25
Men's Wear	+ 6	+ 26	Food & Perishables	+ 9	+ 37
Boots & Shoes	+ 20	+ 31	Miscellaneous	+ 9	+ 3
Total Clothing					
& Piece Goods	+ 7	+ 20	All Classes	+ 15	+ 24

General surveys showed that the improvement in retail stocks of clothing during the second half of 1947 was reversed in the March quarter of 1948. Only in some items of household piece goods has the position improved in recent months. Retailers considered their stocks of most clothing articles to be far below the normal pre-war level.

## OVERSEA TRADE - AUSTRALIA:

The value of Australian overseas trade has been maintained at a very high level during the current financial year. Over the nine months period ended March, the value of merchandise exports was £281 million in 1947-48 compared with £395 million in 1938-39 and £230 million in 1946-47; (as 1946-47 exports included a considerable amount of "old wool", sold and paid for during the war years, figures are not strictly comparable for trade and payments movements). Merchandise imports for the same period increased from £86 million in 1938-39 to £243 million in 1947-48.

OVERSEA TRADE - AUSTRALIA.  
(£A millions, f.o.b.)

Particulars	Nine Months Ended March		
	1939	1947	1948
Merchandise: Exports	95.2	229.7	281.1
Imports	86.4	144.0	243.2
Merchandise Balance	8.8	85.7	37.9
Bullion & Specie, Net Balance	11.6	-0.7	3.4
Total Balance	20.4	85.0	41.3

Much of the increase in trade values is due to higher prices. The index of import prices rose to double the pre-war average by the end of 1945 while export prices rose only 46%, but since then the rise in export prices has outstripped that in import prices. At the end of 1947 the index numbers (average 1936-37 to 1938-39 = 100) were 288 for export prices and 263 for import prices, and in March quarter, 1948 that for export prices rose to 320.

	1936-37 to (1) 1938-39	December Quarter			March Quarter
		1945	1946	1947	1948
Import Price index	100	202	228	268	(3)
Export Price Index(2)	100	146	201	288	320

(1) Commonwealth Bank (2) Government Statistician (including gold)  
(3) Not yet available.

Although exports of many primary products are less in volume than before the war their money value is considerably higher. Of the wool exported in 1946-47 a large proportion was from war-time stocks, and exports in 1947-48 included considerable quantities of 1946-47 clip wool, so that the overseas trade figures do not show the marketing of current clips.

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EXPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES DURING NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, AUSTRALIA

Commodity	Unit	Quantities			Value		
		1939	1947	1948	1939	1947	1948
		millions			\$ millions		
Wool Greasy	lbs	660	817	593	31.3	73.6	85.4
Scoured	lbs	55	136	130	4.2	20.7	23.2
Wheat	bush.	45	10	32	6.5	5.5	26.3
Wheaten Flour	lbs.	1,017	1,090	1,113	3.3	14.9	21.8
Butter	lbs.	171	102	157	9.0	9.5	16.1
Frozen Meat (a)	lbs.	383	293	299	7.8	7.7	8.8
Tinned Meat	lbs.	11	96	67	0.4	6.3	4.2
Skins - Sheep	No.	12	17	10	2.0	6.1	6.3
Rabbit	lbs.	4	10	9	0.4	5.3	3.1
Iron and Steel					1.4	3.3	2.0
Textiles, apparel etc.					0.5	9.1	6.0
Machines & Machinery					0.9	3.2	4.8

(a) Beef, mutton and lamb.

The table shows that during and since the war, more of the primary products have been exported in processed form. - scoured instead of greasy wool, flour instead of wheat, tinned meats instead of frozen meat, etc.. Although exports of manufactured goods such as textiles and machinery have increased, they comprise only a small proportion of total exports.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS:

State revenue for the nine months ended March, 1948 (£60.8 million) fell short of expenditure (£62.8 million) by £2 million as compared with a deficiency of £880,000 for the same period of 1946-47. Commonwealth payments were £1.3 million greater, due to larger tax reimbursements. For the three remaining months of 1947-48, Commonwealth payments are budgeted at £8.4 million, as against £7.5 million received during the last quarter of 1946-47.

N.S.W. RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH  
(£ millions)

	Tax Reimbursement		Debt Charges		Hospital Benefits		Total	
	1946/47	1947/48	1946/47	1947/48	1946/47	1947/48	1946/47	1947/48
July-March	9.89	11.13	2.19	2.19	0.82	0.88	12.90	14.20
April-June	6.58	7.41(a)	0.73	0.73(a)	0.24	0.30(a)	7.55	8.44(a)
Year	16.47	18.54(a)	2.92	2.92(a)	1.06	1.18(a)	20.45	22.64(a)

(a) Budget estimate.

Revenue from stamp and probate duties, other State taxes, lands and services in 1947-48 was £1.9 million greater than in 1946-47 (nine months periods). The increase in receipts from railways (£3.35 million) and tram and bus services (£1.35 million) due to higher fares, did not cover increases in expenditure of £3.57 million and £1.44 million respectively. Departmental expenditure for the nine months amounted to £22.8 million, or £3.7 million more than in the 1946-47 period.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.  
(£ millions)

REVENUE				EXPENDITURE			
Item	Actual, nine months ended		Estimate for Year 1947-48	Item	Actual, nine months ended		Estimate for Year 1947-48
	March				March		
	1947	1948			1947	1948	
From Commonwealth x	12.9	14.2	22.6	Net Debt Charges	10.7	11.0	14.9
State Taxation	5.1	6.4	8.3	Governmental	19.1	22.8	32.8
Other Governmental	5.4	6.0	8.8	Business Undertakingsx	23.9	29.0	39.8
Business Undertakingsx	29.4	34.2	47.4				
Total Revenue	52.8	60.8	87.1	Total Expenditure	53.7	62.8	87.5

x Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interests and hospital benefits.

xx Railways, trams and buses, maritime services. Excludes debt charges.

Accounts of the Road Transport and Traffic Fund are not included.



COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS:

Commonwealth revenue in July-April, 1947-48 (£345.1 million) was £19.4 million more than in the ten months of 1946-47. Revenue from all the principal taxes, excepting sales tax (levied at lower rates), was greater. Collection from customs, excise, sales tax and pay-roll tax have been at rates in excess of the budget estimate. Income tax (including Social Services Contributions) yielded £153.2 million, an increase of £12.9 million, but as a considerable proportion of this tax falls due in May and June, receipts to date cannot be measured against the budget estimate.

Expenditure (other than defence and post-war) was £185.1 million in 1946-47 and £207.1 million in 1947-48 (ten months periods); main increases were in invalid and age pensions, departmental expenses and tax reimbursements to the States. In 1947-48 £3.3 million from revenue was applied to the credit of defence and post-war loan expenditure which totalled £129.7 millions, as compared with £152.8 million in 1946-47.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.  
(£ millions)

R e v e n u e				E x p e n d i t u r e			
Item	Actual, Ten Months ended April		Estimate for Year 1947-48	Item	Actual, ten Months ended April		Estimate for Year 1947-48
	1947	1948			1947	1948	
Customs & Excise	84.2	95.9	102.0	Social Services	50.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	56.8	77.5
Sales Tax	31.2	28.4	29.0	Tax Reimbursed to States	28.9	32.6	44.4
Income Tax & S.S. <sup>(c)</sup>	140.3	153.2	196.0	Other Payments to States	16.8	17.2	20.3
Payroll Tax	11.2	13.5	15.0	Post Office	18.5	23.7	27.1
Other Taxes	10.3	10.6	13.7	Other	52.9	68.9	98.7
Total Taxation	277.2	301.6	355.7	Self-balancing (a)	17.2	7.9	8.0
Post Office	24.6	26.0	31.4	Total of above	185.1	207.1	276.0
Other	6.7	9.6	10.1	Defence & Post-war (c)	152.8	129.7	168.0
Self-Balancing (a)	17.2	7.9	8.0	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	337.9	336.8	444.0
TOTAL REVENUE	325.7	345.1	405.2				

(a) Revenue from flour, wheat and wool charges, earmarked for assistance to and promotion of wheat and wool industries.

(b) Includes £2.8 million from National Welfare Fund.

(c) Includes £9.4 million from loan fund in 1946-47, and payment from revenue of £3.3 million to credit of loan funds in 1947-48. 1947-48 budget provides for £30.3 million defence and post-war charges from loan funds.

Buoyant revenues, receipts from the £35 million Fifth Security Loan, and decreasing war commitments have further improved the Commonwealth's cash position. Redemptions amounting to £20 million during April reduced Commonwealth Treasury bills outstanding in Australia to £228.28 million (£245 million less than a year ago) which compared with the peak of £400 million in February, 1946. This credit contraction has served partly to offset the increase in private lending over the past two years.

COMMONWEALTH TREASURY BILLS, Outstanding in Australia  
£ million

End of Month			
February, 1946	April, 1946	April, 1947	April, 1948
400	373	273	228

THE SEASON:

Good rains fell in Northern districts of the State in March, and in central and southern districts in April. Seasonal conditions in sheep districts remain very favourable. Copious rains which fell at the beginning of May will facilitate preparations for sowing in inland wheat districts and should benefit dairy farms, notwithstanding a temporary check to production in some districts.

RAINFALL INDEX, NEW SOUTH WALES

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.

Normal rainfall each month = 100.

Period	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Dairying Districts (x)		
	N.	C.	S.	W.	State	N.	C.	S.	State	N.	C.	S.
1944 (Year)	66	54	53	53	57	68	51	52	53	87	69	60
1945 (Year)	99	101	86	77	93	95	100	84	89	114	98	104
1946 (Year)	77	68	101	37	83	62	69	102	88	84	39	80
1947 Aug.	136	94	100	173	117	129	82	96	97	61	35	146
Sept.	148	168	119	175	147	140	139	126	131	32	43	34
Oct.	143	161	106	136	136	170	135	115	127	78	70	65
Nov.	144	192	156	176	165	128	196	156	163	143	150	170
Dec.	168	285	306	174	247	173	325	319	302	176	262	256
1948 Jan.	99	107	110	49	99	104	115	95	101	83	150	220
Feb.	82	211	252	138	180	74	222	253	222	42	66	99
Mar.	144	90	21	72	81	136	82	16	48	141	151	36
April	80	102	145	75	107	90	112	140	126	92	40	71

(x) Coastal districts only.

N. Northern; C. Central; S. Southern; W. Western.

WOOL:

Wool received into New South Wales stores (938,000 bales) to 31st March was 49,000 bales less this season than in 1946-47, and over the same period the wool sold (781,000 bales) was 55,000 bales less. Selling had proceeded more rapidly this season until retarded by the suspension of sales during most of March, 1948. The quantity in store at 31st March was 197,000 bales this season compared with 165,000 bales a year earlier.

RECEIVALS, DISPOSALS AND STOCKS OF WOOL JULY TO MARCH.

(N.S.W. Stores excl. Albury - Thousand Bales)

	1947-48			1946-47
	Sydney	Newcastle & Goulburn	Total N.S.W.	Total N.S.W.
Carry-over from previous year	35	5	40	14
Receipts, July-March	755	183	938	987
Total	790	188	978	1,001
Disposals, July-March x	631	150	781	836
Balance in Store at end of March	159	38	197	165

x Auction sales and shipments ex store.

The State's wool clip for the 1947-48 season seems likely to be about 418 million lbs, and the smallest for 22 years. The small clip is due chiefly to the decrease in flocks; sheep numbered 43.1 million at 31st March, 1947, less than at any time since 1924. Fleeces also are expected to be less weighty than in 1946-47.

		Average per season		Season			
		1936-40	1941-45	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48 (a)
Sheep & Lambs Shorn	millions	54.4	56.7	52.3	45.4	43.1	
Average Clip per Sheep	lb.	8.2	8.2	7.6	8.5	8.9	
Total Wool Produced (Greasy Weight)	mill.lbs.	490.9	513.5	448.7	431.5	432.6	418.0

(a) Preliminary Estimate.



Receipts from 1947-48 wool sold in Australia to 31st March, 1948 exceeded the full clip value of any earlier season. For the 2.12 million bales sold £104 m. was realised. Simultaneously 255,000 bales from Joint Organization stocks were sold in Australia for £7.9 millions.

Sales were resumed in Sydney on 12th April. Bidding was very strong and prices for fine quality wool quickly recovered to the record level ruling before the recession which appeared in the Australian and British markets early in March. The demand for crutchings & burry wool is less strong. The offerings of crutchings are larger than usual this year because fly trouble forced some growers to shear half-grown staple.

The average price in Sydney for April, 1948 was 42.5 as compared with 31.5d at the opening of the season and 45d in February, 1948.

#### AVERAGE PRICE FOR GREASY WOOL - SYDNEY

Year ended 30th June	pence per lb.	Month xx	pence per lb.
1928	19.5	1947 August	31.5
1931	8.7	October	34.0
1939	10.3	November	38.0
1940	13.4x	1948 January	43.0
1941 and 1942	13.1x	February	45.0
1943 to 1946	15.1x	March (Nominal)	42.0
1947	23.6	April	42.5

x On basis of British Government contract.

xx Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at Sydney price levels of that month.

A world survey by the London and Cambridge Economic Service shows that world production of wool in 1946 and in 1947 (about 2,900 million lb. greasy) equalled the pre-war average, while output of other fibres (cotton, sisal, flax) was well below that average. The production of fine merino types has been decreasing in recent years. The resultant wider margin in prices has led to some of the demand for merino wool being switched to fine crossbreds and also to medium and coarser qualities. American demand is keeping merino prices at a high level. Total world wool consumption in 1946-47 was estimated at 3,400 million lbs. or 10% above the pre-war average.

Statistics of textile fibre consumption in the United States published by "Rayon Organon" (journal of the rayon industry) show that during the war consumption of all textiles increased greatly, that of wool proportionally less than of rayon and more than of cotton. Consumption of apparel wool doubled between 1940 and 1946 and in 1947 was 70% above the 1940 level; that of cotton rose sharply until 1942 but then decreased and in 1947 was about 20% greater than in 1940; while that of rayon increased in every year and in 1947 exceeded the 1940 level by 113%. More rayon than wool has been consumed in the United States in every year (except 1941) since 1938. Per capita consumption of rayon in the United States rose from a pre-war average of 3 lbs to 6.3 lbs, in 1947, of wool from 2.8 lbs to 4.9 lbs, and of cotton from 25.2 lbs to 27.0 lbs.

#### UNITED STATES - CONSUMPTION OF FIBRES

Year	Cotton	Wool			Rayon
		Apparel	Carpet	Total	
1940	3,954	310	98	408	464
1941	5,187	509	139	648	500
1942	6,879	572	45	617	621
1943	5,269	603	33	636	656
1944	4,792	577	46	623	705
1945	4,511	589	56	645	770
1946	4,845	620	128	748	876
1947	4,711	526	172	698	988

The rise in prices of woollen yarns between 1940 and 1947 (69%) was considerably less than the rise in cotton yarns (162%) but rayon yarns gained a price advantage over both fibres with an increase of only 24%.

PRICES OF WOOL, COTTON AND TEXTILE YARNS IN U.S.A.

	Rayon Yarn 150 dn.	Cotton Yarn Combed 30/2	Woollen Yarn Bradford 2/30's
	cents per lb.		
1940 (average)	53.5	34.1	179
1947 (October)	67	89.2	301.9
% Increase	24%	162%	69%

DAIRYING:

The seasonal decline in butter production in New South Wales from 5,000 tons in January, 1948 to 3,900 tons in February and 3,700 tons in March was greater than in earlier years. Excessive rains caused a deterioration of pastures, but stock is reported to be in good condition.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES - NEW SOUTH WALES.  
(Thousand tons)

Period	Average, three years ending -		1945-46	1946-47	1947-48
	1941-42	1944-45			
July - September	7.7	5.8	5.5	3.9	4.4
October - December	13.3	13.1	10.6	7.1	10.7
January	5.0	5.0	3.6	2.8	5.0
February	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.3	3.9
March	4.7	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7
Total nine months	35.4	31.8	27.1	20.7	27.7
Remainder of year	9.4	5.9	6.0	6.3	
Total	44.8	37.7	33.1	27.0	

Milk consumption in Sydney was at a very high level during the March quarter but decreased in April as supplies contracted. Consumers were rationed lightly as from 12th April and more heavily as from 5th May, when floods in the milk zone interrupted supplies.

MILK SUPPLIES TO MILK BOARD, SYDNEY  
(Million gallons)

	Year		Four weeks ended					
	1946	1947	1947			1948		
			Feb'y 6	March 6	April 3	Feb'y 5	March 4	April 1
Whole Milk	45.08	45.53	3.52	3.70	3.11	3.70	4.05	3.49
Sweet Cream (Milk Equivalent)	1.95	3.12	0.23	0.33	0.53	0.09	0.09	0.08



The fall in dairy production in New South Wales and Queensland in recent years was partly compensated by higher output in Victoria and South Australia. Production of whole milk in Australia was 1,189 million gallons in 1938-39 and 1,061 million gallons in 1946-47 and, at the present rate, will exceed the pre-war figure during the current year.

The utilization of milk in Australia has changed significantly during the war period. In 1938-39, 925 million gallons or 78% of all milk produced were used for butter and in 1946-47, only 670 million gallons or 63% of the total. On the other hand, output of cheese and processed milk products (condensed, concentrated, powdered, etc.) as well as consumption of fresh milk have increased considerably. The proportions of total output required for cheese and condensory products rose from 5% and 2% in 1938-39 to 9% and 7% in 1946-47. These products have also partly replaced exports of butter from Australia which declined from 230 million lbs. valued at £12.9 million in 1938-39 to 134 million lbs. valued at £10.4 million in 1946-47, while the value of cheese and other dairy products exported rose from £1.9 million to £7.7 million.

The Milk Board's basic price for milk delivered to factory was 1/- per gallon, fixed in March, 1938, raised to 1/4d in January, 1942 to 1/5½d in November, 1947 and to 1/9½d as from 14th May, 1948. In addition a Commonwealth Government subsidy varying from 1d to 6½d per gallon according to the season has been paid in recent years. The Milk Board intends to give producers an average all-the-year price of 1/9½d per gallon. A subsidy of 2d now being paid brings the return for the winter season to 1s.11½d per gallon.

#### BASIC PRICE AND SUBSIDY FOR WHOLE MILK PAYABLE TO MILK BOARD

Period	Basic Price	Subsidy	Total (exclusive of Drought Relief Subsidy)
	per gallon	per gallon	per gallon
11-3-1938 to 25- 1-1942	1s. 0d.	-	1s. 0d.
26-1-1942 to 13- 4-1944	1s. 4d.	-	1s. 4d.
14-4-1944 to 30-10-1947	1s. 4d.	1d. to 6½d. (a)	1s.5d. to 1s.10½d. (a)
1-11-1947 to 1-4- 1948	1s. 5½d.	1½d.	1s. 7¼d.
2-4-1948 to 13- 5-1948	1s. 5½d.	3½d.	1s. 9¼d.
From 14-5-1948	1s. 9½d.	2d.	1s.11½d.

(a) Varied according to season